

NOV 55

**SIGNIFICANCE OF FRENCH DESIRE TO DISSOLVE
PARLIAMENT**

1. **ULTIMATELY MEANS NATIONAL ELECTIONS
IN DECEMBER IF COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC NEXT
TUESDAY CONCURS.**
2. **COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE THE
CHAMBERS ACTION.**
3. **NO CHANGE IN PRESENT ELECTORAL
SYSTEM--FULL DOZEN ALTERNATIVES HAVING
BEEN SUCCESSIVELY DEFEATED DURING THE
LAST FEW DAYS' DEBATE.**
4. **PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY (330) INCLUDED
ALL OF THE COMMUNIST BLOC PRESENT (94).
VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE MRP (78) AND HEAVY
MAJORITY OF THE INDEPENDENTS AND ARS.**

DOCUMENT NO. 1
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 18 Jan 80 REVIEWER:

25X1

~~SECRET~~

5. THE RADICAL SOCIALISTS WERE EVENLY
DIVIDED ~~WITH AN EQUAL SPLIT OF OPINION~~
BETWEEN
~~MR FAURE AND MR MENDES.~~

6. RADICALS AND MRP PROPONENTS
MOTIVATED IN LARGE MEASURE BY DESIRE TO
ACT RAPIDLY IN ORDER TO HEAD OFF RESURGENCE
OF MENDES-FRANCE.

7. THE COMMUNISTS HOPE TO BENEFIT
BECAUSE OF DISCORD AMONG THE CENTER PARTIES
AND ALSO BECAUSE THEY HAVE GREATER CHANCE
OF ALLIANCES WITH THE SOCIALISTS IF MENDES-
FRANCE UNABLE TO FORM HIS LEFT CENTER
ALLIANCE.

8. ["]PRESENT SCRUTIN DEPARTMENT["]
FAVORS FOREGOING TACTICS EVEN THOUGH FULL
NATIONAL PR SYSTEM WOULD BE THEIR BEST BET,
UNDER WHICH MIGHT GET ADDITIONAL 50 SEATS.
MOREOVER, OVER THE LONG TERM COMMUNISTS

~~SECRET~~

MAY WELL FEEL THAT HEADING OFF A VITAL
LEFT OF CENTER GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS MENDES-
FRANCE MIGHT PRODUCE AFTER A JUNE 1956
ELECTION, WILL BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE IN
PRESERVING FOR THEM THE CURRENT
IMMOBILISM IN FRENCH POLITICS AS A TARGET.

Chamber Vote on Early Elections		
Party (Se)	For	Against
Communists (98)	92	0
Socialists (103)	0	92
UDSR (24)	6	12
Ind. Center (16)	12	0
M R P (88)	78	3
Radical (75)	<u>32</u> (?)	31 MFA bilateral
Independents (35)	43	5
" Peas. (27)	20	5
Gaullists (69)	5	47
Peasants (21)	10	7
A R S (22)	29	2
Unaffiliated 15	3	7
	330	211